

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

COMPENSATED GRADUAL EMANCIPATION.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

GENTLEMEN: The summary in your editorial columns of the action of the Congress just expired during its last session, though not quite as favorable as that in the New York Times, was yet marked with that respectful impartiality and candor which constitute the enviable peculiarity of most of your strictures. The Times deprecates the failure in the Senate of the bill for compensating the owners of slaves in Missouri should their Legislature adopt the plan of the President for gradual emancipation. That plan was approved by a Legislature which some deem to be a free Legislature, and some mistrust as perhaps not expressing the true sentiment of a majority of freemen, whilst it has been rejected by an almost unanimous vote of the Legislature of Kentucky, with regard to which no such doubts can reasonably be entertained. The experiment was not crucial in Delaware and in the District; but in Kentucky and Tennessee it is sure to become so. The test is a severe one even in Missouri. And amidst this diversity of opinion, it occurred to me, Messrs. Editors, that the views of a class of persons in Kentucky, neither few nor devoid of influence, made up in part of slaveholders as well as those who are not and never have been, might be of interest to your readers, and exert a conservative influence during a period when the passions of men are overmastering their reason.

This class is gratified at the failure of the bill were it only that it secures delay and deliberation; but the whole scheme, in their view, is obnoxious to very grave objections. Reduce the amount of compensation to a minimum, yet it swells to such enormous dimensions as not only to appear frightful when added to the vast expenses of this awful war, but to threaten resistance, possibly an armed resistance, on the part of those who feel nothing beyond a philanthropic interest in the measure. Swelled to a maximum, it will prove but a drop in the bucket to the broad and deep stream of disaster and ruin which financially would attend a too sudden emancipation. In the view of that class of persons whose sentiments I am now representing, any small sum allowed for compensation, such as \$200 or \$300 a head, will act only as a bribe for hasty legislation. It can have little other effect so long as the largeness of the sum is regulated by the alacrity of the time.

When any great and radical change is proposed in the system of field labor in a large agricultural district the longer the time, other things being equal, the better; and so a very gradual scheme of uncompensated emancipation seems to be best suited to the condition of the Border Slave States. There are those in Kentucky who have been the advocates of such a scheme for thirty or forty years. So long, and emphatically now, they are of opinion that the very best thing which can be done for Kentucky is to bring about, at an early day, such a change in her Constitution as would enable her to declare free at a certain age all born after the year 1870, and that all should be born free after the year 1900. During this generation the evil would disappear so gradually and imperceptibly that no existing interests or vested rights would be impaired to any such extent as could equitably be made the ground of an award for damages. It is to be regretted that at present this is far from being the general sentiment in Kentucky. She has unwisely placed herself in such an attitude of defence against an external pressure that for a while she refuses to listen to the inexorable logic of events, and refuses to see that this war has unavoidably inaugurated a system of gradual emancipation in all the Border Slave States. Better accept it at once as a fixed fact, but not upon the principle of compensated emancipation.

LEX.

THE SUFFERINGS OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

The people of the North who are making a pitiful mow about the war, as a general rule, know very little about it, and those who are flippantly talking of resisting the enforcement of the laws—that is to say, of inaugurating civil war among ourselves—ought to visit the scenes of active hostilities in the South to take lessons in the horrors of war.

The desolation of those portions of Virginia, Mississippi, and Tennessee that have been fought over is frightful and indescribable. The country about Nashville, which was as fertile, as highly cultivated, and richly adorned as any portion of America, is now one scene of ruin. If Tennessee had been true to the Union she would not have been devastated and in mourning to-day. If she had been firm in the good cause, the war would have passed beyond her borders without blighting a blade of her grass. Let her fate be a warning.

The sufferings of the people of the South have been almost without a parallel. Dragged into war by a baleful aristocracy and a ravenous mob, they have been subjected to the excruciations of a relentless military despotism. Now the giant specter of famine adds to the terrors of the South, and the alarm is sounded from press to press all over the Confederacy, "plant corn or we perish." The miserable folk of State rights are bearing its legitimate fruit in the dire calamities of war, joined to the formation of a central power, imperious and comprehensive as that of the Empire of Russia.

In a recent debate in the Virginia Legislature, Mr. Anderson, of Rockbridge county, dealt with the Confederate tyranny after the following manner:

"We are now living," he said, "under a tyranny as complete as that which was exercised by the Lincoln Government, and which was only to the noble patriotism of our people that they have submitted as they have. What right he would ask, has a Confederate functionary to seize his property without law, and to allow one-half its value for its compensation? There was no law that authorized the Government to take the property of the people, and to so far as it withheld compensation, it was robbery and oppression; and he, for one, was not willing to submit to it. If we were to have tyranny it mattered not whether we have it from one Government or from another; but no free people would submit to tyranny from any source."

The Atlanta (Georgia) Intelligencer, in an article on Southern monarchy, says:

"The usurpation of property in which private property—in the shape of the right to eat and wear—is seized and appropriated by the Government, and that, too, without any reference to the pecuniary interests of the parties owning such property, and when such seizures tend to destroy trade, and cause the people to lose confidence and to desert the Government, is a course, they claim, is very strong proof that a monarchy is the thing aimed at. The recklessness with which the Government, through its various agents, conducts trade outside of the seizures it makes, tending to place outside every necessary out of the reach of the poor, looks, they argue, to the same end."

The Richmond Enquirer urges the people of Virginia to plant corn and not to tobacco. It says:

"If the country cannot supply the army with provisions this summer, the army can't remain in Virginia. If it leaves Virginia it must be taken up to the Yankees, who will appropriate not only tobacco, but ransom of war, but seize every thing we have, and reduce the country to a wilderness. If the Legislature adjourns without prohibiting the culture of tobacco, and requiring the officers of the law to destroy every leaf which they find growing for twelve months to come, the chance of this State is indeed poor."

The Baltimore American, noticing this beautiful condition of public liberty in Virginia, says:

"When the Richmond papers which contain these injunctive publications, at the same time, the correspondence of Governor Letcher with the proprietors of the Gallego Mills there—refusing to protect the rights of the people, and open robbery of their priors—who need appear that the people of Virginia are going to raise grain to be in like manner seized for the support of the horde of locusts who infest and devour the country. And thus it is that, whilst the force that the Northern troops may seize upon their tobacco, and the certainty that the Confederate cavalry will rob them of their corn or wheat, Virginia is sure not to be cultivated to any great extent this year, even if the able-bodied men were left there to do it; and one prospect, therefore, is, as a matter of course, that the rebel troops will be started out, even if they are not mean-while whipped out."

But what a prospect for Old Virginia! What a prospect for any State South, when the tyrants at Richmond take upon themselves to prescribe what shall be planted by the farmers, and then assume the right to rob them of it with-out color of law or right? Governor Letcher, when appealed to, declares his inability to protect the most prominent and interfering excesses of the State, turning them over for any redress to the military officers, when the iron-hand of military despotism tramples all law into the dirt.

Our sympathizers with secession ought to have a few weeks' experience of the real thing to cure them of their delirium. (Cincinnati Commercial.)

The London Times announces, in its city article, that the final arrangements for the proposed Confederate loan of £3,000,000, starting on the security of cotton had been made between Messrs. Erlanger & Co., of Paris and Frankfurt, and the Confederate Government, and the particulars were expected to be issued in a few days.

The anniversary of Washington's birthday was celebrated in London by a banquet at St. James's Hall, at which about one hundred and twenty persons were present. Among the guests were Mr. Adams, the American Minister; Messrs. Wilson and Moran, Secretaries of Legation; Mr. White, M. P.; Mr. Conyngham, M. P.; Prof. Newman, &c.

The usual toasts were drunk. That to "the Union" was received with great enthusiasm, and was responded to by Mr. Adams, who expatiated on the glorious efforts of Washington for the Union, and repudiated the idea that Washington, if alive, could be found on the side of the rebels. He said the South had entered upon a career, whether for glory or for shame, posterity was to determine; but whatever their objects might be they could not claim George Washington in support of their principles. From this time forward the names and memory of Washington must be kept in reverence and guarded with care, especially by the loyal portion of the Americans.

Messrs. CONYNGHAM and WHITE, the members of Parliament who were present, both denounced slavery as the cause of the war, and expressed strong sympathy with the North.

The commander of the frigate *Majestic*, the guardship in the Mersey, had given a grand banquet on board his vessel in honor of the arrival of the relief ship *George Griwald*.

Among the guests were Mr. Dudley, the United States Consul at Liverpool, Capt. Long, the Commander of the *George Griwald*, Messrs. Babcock and Guion, the consignees of the vessel, and a number of well-known citizens of Liverpool. The guests were conveyed on board in a gunboat and were received on the deck of the *Majestic* by Capt. Ingelish, her commanding officer, and the side of the relief ship. The speeches at the banquet were of a very fraternal character.

A monster meeting was held at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on the 24th, to adopt an address of thanks for presentation to the captain and officers of the *George Griwald*, and representatives of the American contributors to the relief fund. The immense hall was crammed to excess, and an outside meeting was organized. An appropriate address was adopted, and speeches full of sympathy with the North were delivered and received with enthusiasm.

The barque *Achilles*, with the Philadelphia contributions for the relief of the distressed cotton operatives, arrived at Liverpool on the 22d February.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

In the House of Lords, on the 23d, Lord STRATHFORD in compliance with a request from Earl Russell, postponed until the 2d of March a motion for which he had given notice, for copies of all dispatches from the Secretary of State to the Government, on the claim of the Southern Confederacy to be acknowledged as an independent Power by Great Britain.

In the House of Commons, on the same evening, Mr. BAXTER called attention to the departure of the relief ship from Egypt by the Emperor of the French, which he characterized as a most base and evil proceeding, and worse than a revival of the slave trade.

Lord PALMERSTON said the transaction was not only irregular and unwarrantable, but in view of its details, liable to stronger censure than his friend applied to it. The facts of the case were as follows: The Emperor of the French, on account of the mortality of the French troops in Mexico, had desired to enlist a force of Africans for service there, but the Emperor of the United States, beyond this request, the Emperor of the United States was marched down to Alexandria, and forthwith shipped on board a French frigate before they knew why or where they were going. This was not the intention of the French Emperor, who only wished to enlist a force of Africans, but the Emperor of the United States, who was carried to an unhealthy climate; and he trusted that the Government had expressed an opinion to this effect to the French Government.

Mr. S. FRYER called attention to the 26th of February he should move for papers in continuation of the papers of the last session in reference to the correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the United States, and also the correspondence with certain persons representing the Southern States.

In the House of Commons, on the 24th, Mr. HOWARD asked if there was any correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the Emperor of the French relative to the offer of mediation between the Federal and Confederate States, and if so, whether the United States had been laid on the table of the House? He also wished to know if the Government was aware that any reply on the subject had been received by the Emperor of the French from the Federal Government?

Lord PALMERSTON said that the subject was a despatch from Lord Russell, on the 13th of November, to Lord Cowley, in a reply to a verbal communication from the French Ambassador. That document was already on the table of the House. With regard to the reply that might have been made by the Emperor of the French, that would be a matter between the American Government and the French Minister at Washington, and he did not see how he could answer the question.

The Board of Trade returns for the year 1862 are published. They show the total exports of Great Britain for the year to have been £214,137,212 in value, against £195,102,814 in 1861, and £135,891,227 in 1860.

The London Globe has reason to believe that a satisfactory settlement of the dispute with Brazil is likely to be promptly effected.

The reported retirement of M. Pould from the Cabinet is not confirmed, and the Paris correspondent of the Morning Post says he will not retire unless his budget is rejected, which is not very likely.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

The Polish question, under the attitude taken by France in favor of the Poles and against Prussian intervention, was attracting great attention. The Paris Constitutionnel, which is supposed to speak the sentiments of the Emperor Napoleon, had published a strong article against the intervention of France in Poland. The London Times, in its article, says that if the Constitutionnel really speaks the sentiments of the French Emperor, the prospect is indeed momentous, and it is impossible to repel the apprehension that this French King of Prussia is making a great and perhaps a fatal opportunity for his power to be used to sever from Austria her Polish province, but they will require the Czar to fulfill the stipulations of the treaty of Vienna, which guaranteed to the Poles a Constitutional Government and the form of national autonomy.

The Times quotes a letter from Paris, which says the French Government does not desire any territorial changes in Poland, and still less the reconstruction of the ancient Kingdom of Poland. The writer adds: "France and England have agreed to respect the integrity of Poland by Prussia of the engagement she entered into in 1812."

The London Herald is informed that the Government of France and England have come to an understanding and agreed to adopt a common course of action. They will make no attempt to resist the Prussian military force, or to sever from Austria her Polish province, but they will require the Czar to fulfill the stipulations of the treaty of Vienna, which guaranteed to the Poles a Constitutional Government and the form of national autonomy.

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by the National Assembly itself. The London Times publishes the following telegram from Athens, dated the 23d ultimo:

"The Provisional Government, recently established, has fallen, through a demonstration got up yesterday with the assistance of part of the garrison. The Assembly has invested President Moraitini with the executive power, until it should order otherwise. Today all is quiet. The troops which were disbanded are returning. The Assembly is discussing a new form of government. A Ministry elected directly by the Assembly will have the greatest chance of success."

LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, MARCH 13.—The steamship *Australasian*, from Liverpool on the 28th of February, arrived this evening.

Mr. Secretary Seward's despatch rejecting Napoleon's proposals attracted general comment. The London Times says if Secretary Seward is not pertinaciously right, he is comprehensively wrong, and after criticizing and dissenting from his view of affairs, says that he is at least consistent with all that he has written from the commencement, but whether he is consistent with the facts, the Times would prefer to leave events to decide. The Morning Post is very bitter, and looks upon the letter as more unbecomingly, but emanating as it does from the Washington Cabinet, it is truly incredible that that body should have sunk so low as to endorse so much arrant falsehood and absurd nonsense. The Star praises the despatch, thinks it unanswerable, and shows that henceforth not even the mildest form of interference can have the least hope of acceptance.

It is stated that the Confederate loan has all been freely taken in the Continental market.

The captains of the American relief ships *George Griwald*, *Achilles*, and *Hope* were entertained at a grand banquet given by the Mayor of Liverpool. Friendly speeches were interchanged. Consul Dudley asserted that the earnest desire of the American Government and people was perpetual amicable relations with England.

Princess Alexandra, the intended of the Prince of Wales, has left Copenhagen for England. Great preparations were made there and along the whole route.

The British Government's claim against Brazil has been modified one-half.

The Polish question continues the prominent topic. There has been an important debate in the House of Commons. All the speakers condemned the Russian policy, but the Government was left untrammelled by any resolution. The movements of the insurgents continue seaward. The Spanish Ministerial crisis continues.

UNION MEETINGS.

The inauguration on Wednesday evening last of the National Union Club of Philadelphia was made the occasion of a grand Union demonstration at Musical Fund Hall. The invitation of the meeting was addressed to "the unconditional friends of the Union and all in favor of sustaining the General Government in suppressing the present unholy rebellion," and the response was a crowd that more than filled the hall, so as to render necessary the organization of an outside meeting.

Governor CURTIS, of Pennsylvania, was present and presided. He delivered an able speech urging unity among the people in the prosecution of the war for the preservation of the Government. Mr. Senator DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, Ex-Senator WATSON, of Indiana, Representative WRIGHT, of Pennsylvania, Governor JOHNSON, of Tennessee, and Mr. B. H. BREWSTER, of Philadelphia, also delivered addresses. The following are the leading resolutions adopted:

Resolved, That the Government of the United States is founded on the principles of the Constitution, which constitutes one people, and is the main pillar in the edifice of our independence—the only support of our tranquility at home and our peace abroad; of our safety, prosperity, and liberty.

Resolved, That no calamity could befall the American people so terrible in its results as the breaking up of the foundations of the Government of the United States; and, under a solemn sense of duty to God and our country, we therefore pledge to each other our sacred honor to sustain the President and its other constituted authorities in their efforts to overwhelm and subjugate its enemies by force of arms and all the appliances of war, as the only means of restoring its sovereign authority under the Constitution, securing the blessings of peace, and preserving the liberties of the people.

A Union meeting, under the auspices of the Union League, was held at Newark (N. J.) on Friday night. The speakers were Senator Wright, of Indiana, Governor Johnson, of Tennessee, Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, and Hon. James Wadsworth, of New York. The audience was large and enthusiastic. Governor Johnson and Mr. Maynard were received with special applause.

There was a large gathering at the Academy of Music, in New York, on Saturday night, to ratify the proceedings of the late meeting at the Cooper Institute. Secretaries CHASE and WELLES were present. The speakers were Major Gen. Wool, Gen. Cochrane, James T. Brady, (who presided), Ex-Governor Wright, of Indiana, Gov. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, and Gen. Wetmore. Lieut. Gen. Scott was prevented by illness from presiding. A plan of organization of a Loyal Union League was adopted with enthusiasm. Gen. Scott's name was put down for president, and a list was agreed upon for vice presidents and an executive committee. These include many of the most prominent citizens.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The following confirmations were made on Saturday by the Senate:

Col. J. A. J. Lightburn, of the 4th Virginia volunteers, to be a Brigadier General of volunteers.

Lieut. Col. Thos. C. H. Smith, of the 1st Ohio cavalry, to be a Brigadier General of volunteers.

Col. Thos. G. Stephenson, of the 24th Massachusetts volunteers, to be a Brigadier General of volunteers.

Capt. James S. Palmer to be a Commodore in the navy.

Commander George F. Emmons to be a Captain in the navy.

THE BRITISH IRON-CLADS.

The channel fleet of iron-clads arrived from Lisbon at Spithead on the 21st of February. They had been cruising about for some time, under steam and sail, making trials of speed and seaworthiness. The trials gave very satisfactory results. The Warrior and other iron-clads required docking in order to clean their bottoms, fouling being an incident to iron-clads everywhere, though this, it is said, can be obviated by the use of zinc paint. In coming up the English channel the *Revenge*, *Warrior*, and *Black Prince* steamed with half-steam power, and the *Defence* and *Resistance* with full power, the rate of steaming of the whole fleet being eleven knots. This is rather better speed than is made by our monitors.

THE LATE ARREST IN ILLINOIS.

The following is Judge Constable's statement of his interference with the arrest of deserters in Clarke county, Illinois. It was given at the request of McFarland, one of the soldiers arrested by the Judge's order for taking the deserters:

MARSHALL, CLARKE COUNTY, (ILL.)

At the request of John McFarland, Judge of the fourth judicial circuit of the State of Illinois, I state that Messrs. McFarland and Thomas Long have been arrested and brought before me for examination on a charge of kidnapping, and that I have deemed it my duty to hold them over in the bond of five hundred dollars to appear on next Thursday morning, being the tenth judicial day of the term of the Clarke County Court, now in session, to answer further to said charge, and have ordered the discharge from custody of James Gammon, Hugh Scott, M. Belcher, and John Tanner, four men who they and I arrested upon the ground that they were deserters from Company K, 130th regiment Illinois volunteers.

CHAS. H. CONSTABLE,

Judge Fourth Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

FROM NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, MARCH 15.—Several hundred Poles held a meeting last night, and adopted an address responsive to that of the Polish National Committee. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for a grand demonstration at the Cooper Institute.

The candle factory of R. T. Mitchell & Co., First Avenue, was burnt last night. The loss is \$100,000.

The prize steamer *Adels*, from Key West, has arrived here.

FROM THE GULF DEPARTMENT.

A MOVEMENT AGAINST PORT HUDSON.

Correspondence of the New York Evening Post.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 5, 1863.

Gen. Banks left the city last night for Baton Rouge, in company with most of his staff and Gen. Grover, by the river steamer *Empire Parish*, with the intention of not returning before he witness the reduction and occupation by the national forces of the formidable batteries and fortifications frowning upon the Father of Waters at Port Hudson. Gen. Auger is already at Baton Rouge. There is with him a force of some twenty thousand men, all told; though many of them are not yet in the highest state of efficiency, if thorough acquaintance with drill is needed to make soldiers truly efficient in action. Troops have been forwarded to Baton Rouge for some time from this vicinity. Some have been sent up within a few days from Carrollton, one of the suburbs of New Orleans. A portion of the force detailed to accompany the proposed movement into the Treble country has also found its way to the wharf State capital. For three or four weeks means for transportation have been quietly accumulated to a large amount up the river, and it is hoped that delays, the curse of military action in this department, will not interfere to defeat the object in view. Whether the Mississippi is to be opened to the trade of the loyal West this season is a question to be determined very shortly—perhaps within a few days. The army, officers and men, have long been anxious for a forward movement.

Of course, this attack will not be made without the aid of a naval force. As already explained in this correspondence, the situation of Port Hudson renders an attack on the front by a land force an impossibility. Troops must be landed below to move upon the enemy's works from the rear. Bombardment by the fleet will be attended with the disadvantage encountered at La and No. 10 and Vicksburg, from the height of the bluff on which the defences are placed. But preparations have been made that the bombardment may be as effective as possible. The principal vessels to be engaged, besides the mortar boats, as far as I have been able to ascertain, are the Hartford, Richmond, Mississippi, Monongahela, Genesee, Kincaid, Essex, and Sportman. In fact, all the vessels here, with the exception of the *Pennacola*, Commander Morris, which will remain stationed off the city, and a despatch boat to communicate with the fleet from New Orleans, will find something to do in this most important undertaking.

The force at Port Hudson is variously estimated at from seven to ten thousand men. Perhaps the latter figure is not far from the truth. The position is naturally one of the strongest on the river.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

BRASSHAR CITY, (LA.) MARCH 7, 1863.

It has been a long time since any movement of importance has been made in this department, one begins to expect there never will be any. Our army has occupied, with the exception of G. N. Weitzel's brigade, almost precisely the same ground it is now on for more than two months. Every body looks puzzled; every body is puzzled. We cannot be so stupid as to keep the same ground for so long a time, and yet not make every body look puzzled. Fortunately, however, I know the mist will very soon be cleared away with the smoke of one of the grandest battles ever fought on this continent. This idea may seem exaggerated, but I think the future will fully verify it.

Gen. Weitzel has tried the experiment of substituting his army on the country, and has thus far been successful. Foraging parties are sent out every day, returning at night with cattle, hay, potatoes, corn, &c. In most cases no harm is done except the loss of a few chickens, and the army is furnished a receipt for their quota for the support of the army. Where the party relieved of produce has been the oath of allegiance he gets this receipt cashed by presenting it to the Chief Quartermaster or Commissary at New Orleans. Probably there is no brigade under Gen. Banks' command that has lived better and cost the Government less than G. N. Weitzel's.

In this immediate vicinity we are having considerable trouble with the negroes, owing to Gen. Banks' order putting them to work on the plantations. It is true, the negroes are not so numerous as the white population, and under the order they can choose between field labor and Government service; still, when we remember Government really has nothing for them to do, and that there are about fifteen thousand of them lying idle, who have never done any thing but work on plantations, it will readily be seen in which direction they are expected to go. As the negroes have an idea that they are free and that freedom means "do as we please," it is pretty hard to convince them they are expected to do all that is required of slaves. There is a rebellion within the rebel ranks in the southern districts of this State. The rebel conscription act is meting with violent opposition from every quarter where Jeff. Davis has attempted to enforce it. None are exempt between the ages of seventeen and fifty, except the authorities who are enforced to work on the plantations, and the sale driving of the people into the ranks of the rebel army, if it can be carried out, will be a complete depopulation of this part of the country. A refugee who lately came into camp reports that there are five hundred Union men who have been found in the rebel ranks, and in the open country of the rebel Government, now between Oldenham Swamp and Alexander, who are rescuing conscripts from Jeff. Davis' authorities. The Union men are armed, and able, it is said, to fully sustain themselves.

The planter in this vicinity who have concluded to work their land under the recent order of Gen. Banks have determined, most of them, to plant nothing but cotton this year. Cotton, they say, is a more sure crop than cane and requires much less labor to cultivate it. They also believe when the season for picking comes plenty of negroes can be found to do the work, and the crop will be secured in the end. Cotton is very much less liable to injury from neglect than cane, for cane, as soon as it is ripe enough to cut, must be gathered immediately, and the labor is incessant until the sugar is picked in the hogshead. Cotton can stand some time without being cut, and can be picked by women and children if no other kind of labor can be had. For the above reasons we need not be surprised to find Louisiana a cotton-growing State, and not a sugar plantation on her soil, in less than five years.

IMPRESSMENT OF FOOD FOR THE ARMY.

The following correspondence was recently laid before the Legislature of Virginia and referred to the Committee on Confederate Relations:

GALLEGUE MILLS, RICHMOND, MARCH 4, 1863.

His Excellency John Letcher,

Governor of the State of Virginia:

SIR: Major John H. Claiborne came to our mill yesterday, with written orders from the Commissary General, Confederate States of America, to impress all of the super fine flour in our mill, said and unsaid, at \$17 per barrel, and one-half of the extra for flour reduced to one-half of the actual cost of the flour, and to deliver the same to the actual purchase of wheat and barrels bought in the open market at current rates, makes our flour cost us considerably more than the price fixed by the Government. At the opening of our milling season we made fair propositions to the Government, but they were not accepted, and we are now in a position to supply the Government with flour from being carried off in arms, not only at less than cost, but at far less than its market value.

Respectfully submitted,

WARWICK BARK

RICHMOND, (VA.) MARCH 4, 1863.

GENTLEMEN: I have your communication of the 4th instant, in which you call upon me for an armed force for the protection of your property. I regard the act of which you complain as oppressive, and committed without lawful authority. The only remedy I know of is the institution of suits for damages against the officers committing these acts. Where legal remedies can be used, it is always better to resort to them for redress of grievances. I will transact your business with the General Assembly for such act as their wisdom may suggest.

I am, truly, your obedient servant,

JOHN LETCHER.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, writing from Columbus, Kentucky, gives the following particulars of a tragedy which occurred there about five o'clock in the morning of the 9th instant:

"A man by the name of Rogers, as is supposed, commenced an attack upon a lieutenant in the line of the land, hearing the disturbance, rushed in, when Rogers attacked him with a knife, stabbing him in a terrible manner. The landlady's wife, hearing her husband's cries for help, came rushing in, and immediately attacked by the madman, and gnashed in a manner, which renders her recovery impossible. During the fray the lieutenant received a pistol shot, which it is feared will prove mortal. The guard here rushed in and fired upon the unfortunate man who attempted his work of murder upon them. He finally fell dead, being cut with five bullets, and ran through with a sword. The landlady and her husband, who were now lying at the point of death; the former, it is thought, cannot survive the night."

THE YAZOO PASS EXPEDITION.

REPORTED CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF TWENTY-SIX REBEL STEAMERS.

REPORTED EVACUATION OF VICKSBURG.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 16.—The *Gazette's* Vicksburg despatch says that the Yazoo Pass expedition has captured twenty-six rebel steamboats, eighteen of which were destroyed.

Our gunboats had arrived above Haines' Bluff and would soon commence the attack.